

N York Feb 20 1857

Prof. A. Gray }
Cambridge } Dear Sir,

Your favor of
18th is rec^d.

We have not supposed you willing to throw any obstacle in the way of a completion of our arrangement with Messrs. Putnam & Co., & are sorry if anything we have written conveyed such an idea to you.

Nor did we suppose the article we sent for you to sign could "alter" your contract with P. & Co. — Our intention was only to provide for the contingency, possible tho' improbable, as you truly say — of P. & Co.'s failure to meet their engagements. In such contingency, (which would annul their right (& consequently ours as matters now stand) & restore the sole control to yourself) we intended to ask & would now ask that you should convey to us the right of publication from yourself direct. For this purpose we have handed Mr. Putnam a brief mem. which he & we think covers

this contingency & is of no effect unless the
contingency do occur, & that it will exactly
meet your view, as you say you are de-
sirous to facilitate the satisfactory conclusion of
our arrangement & do not wish to gain
anything by our contract with P. & Co., but
only to avoid loss.

Mr Putnam will return you the last
article you sent us, in which we propose you
incorporate the clause sent therewith, as
above referred to

Believe us, Dear Sir, we regret hav-
ing troubled you so much on what you may
regard as an almost impossible contingen-
cy — but as what we ask is just, and
can harm no one's interests — and will cause
us to work more cheerfully & energetically
for the books, we trust you will willingly
make the proposed modification

We are getting the most commenda-
tory announcements of the appearance of
the books in our Educational Series, from
all the principal journals reviews &c.
Yours respectfully
Simon & Schuster